

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7638

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0278

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E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO ET

SUBJECT: OAU: CONSULTATIONS ON SUMMIT

REF: STATE 004289

1. BRIT, FRG, AND FRENCH AMBS MET AT MY HOUSE LAST NIGHT. ALL HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING:

A. AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT, IT WOULD BE MISTAKE FOR FOUR OF US TO BE SEEN AS ACTING IN CONCERT. WE WILL ACT SEPARATELY.

B. TIME IS VERY SHORT (24 HOURS BEFORE SUMMIT) AND POSITIONS OF MANY COUNTRIES ARE FIXED. WE INTEND TO CONCENTRATE ON BOLSTERING FRIENDLIES, AND IN ADDITION WILL TRY TO IDENTIFY WAVERERS ON MPLA SIDE FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION. BURUNDI IS PRIME TARGET AMONG WAVERERS. WE HAVE ALL ALREADY DONE A GOOD DEAL OF WORK ALONG THESE LINES, AND WILL CONTINUE.

C. WITH REPORTED COMOROS DEFECTION, PRO-MPLA FORCES NOW NUMBER 22 (24 MAKES MAJORITY). HOWEVER, WHEN AND IF TIME COMES SOME, SUCH AS BURUNDI, MAY BE INDUCED TO VOTE RIGHT ON PROCEDURAL VOTE, AND DECLARE THAT RECOGNITION OF MPLA IS IN FACT IMPORTANT QUESTION, THUS SPLITTING OFF FROM PRO-MPLA STAND. FRIENDLY AFRICANS ARE WORKING HARD ON THIS, AND WE WILL HELP.

D. WE ALL HAVE DETECTED SOMEWHAT INCREASED CONFIDENCE
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AMONG FRIENDLIES THAT SUMMIT WILL FIND A WAY TO AVOID

DIVISIVE STEAMROLLING BY PRO-MPLA FORCES. SURVIVAL OF OAU NOW SEEMS JUST AS IMPORTANT A FACTOR AMONG AFRICANS AS IS ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN SENTIMENT; PREVIOUSLY THE LATTER OVERSHADOWED ALL OTHER FACTORS. CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM SEEMS JUSTIFIED.

E. STATE 004271 (SITUATION IN ANGOLA) IS VERY HELPFUL AND WE WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF SUBSTANCE.

2. THERE WAS USEFUL EXCHANGE OF DETAILED INFORMATION, WHICH I WILL WEAVE INTO ORDINARY REPORTING CABLES RATHER THAN IN THIS RESTRICTED MESSAGE.

HUMMEL

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